

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042401

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07 /016 R

DRAFTED BY AF/SDPNCHRISTENSEN:DRP

APPROVED BY AF/S:WPO'NEILL,JR.

AF - MR. FOLEY

L/AF:CSCHMITZ

AF/C:RKPYLE (SUBS)

TREASURY:SSOMMERFIELD (INFO)

COMM/MLICHT (SUBS)

EB/EWT/SGOODMAN (SUBS)

EB/AVD:JAGORDON (SUBS)

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P R 252126Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA BANGUI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, SY

SUBJECT: SAFAIR REFUELING STOP IN RHODESIA

REF: PRETORIA 592

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. ALL OF OUR LEGAL CONDITIONS ON USAGE OF L-100 AIRCRAFT
WERE SPECIFIED WHEN EXPORT LICENSE WAS ISSUED, INCLUDING
PROVISION FORBIDDING USE OF AIRCRAFT IN RHODESIAN TRADE.
MATTER RAISED BY SAFAIR REP IN REFTEL IS NOT ISSUE OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 042401

ENGAGING IN RHODESIAN TRADE BUT ONLY TECHNICAL-REFUELING

STOPOVER AT VICTORIA FALLS. WE HAVE NO RPT NO LEGAL
OBJECTIONS TO SUCH STOPOVERS AS LONG AS NO CARGO WHATSOEVER
IS ON OR OFF LOADED WHILE AIRCRAFT ARE AT VICTORIA FALLS.
WE DO NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER SUCH REFUELING STOPOVERS TO BE
IN VIOLATION OF TERMS OF AIRCRAFT EXPORT LICENSE. HOWEVER,
WE BELIEVE THAT THE SAFAIR REP WAS WELL ADVISED TO DISCUSS
ISSUE WITH EMBOFFS SINCE STOPOVER PROPOSAL DOES RAISE
POSSIBILITY OF SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL PROBLEMS. IT COULD
EASILY GIVE APPEARANCE THAT SAFAIR IS ENGAGING IN RHODESIAN

TRADE AND COULD THUS RESULT IN STRONG DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL CRITICISMS OVER PREVIOUS AND FUTURE U.S.
SALES OF AIRCRAFT TO SAFAIR.

2. THEREFORE, WHILE WE HAVE NO LEGAL OBJECTION TO
SAFAIR'S PROPOSED REFUELING STOPOVERS AT VICTORIA FALLS,
WE OBVIOUSLY DO HAVE SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER POLITICAL
RAMIFICATIONS. THUS WE HOPE THAT SAFAIR WOULD FIND
ANOTHER, NON-RHODESIAN, REFUELING STOPOVER TO REPLACE
VICTORIA FALLS FOR ITS PROPOSED JOHANNESBURG-BANGUI RUN.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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